

Identifying and Avoiding Common Mistakes in Written Academic English

Use this worksheet to practice what is discussed in

- **Information sheet 16: Avoiding common mistakes when writing academic English – General** and
- **Information sheet 16a: Avoiding common mistakes when writing academic English – German-language based**

The Information Sheets 16 and 16a contain common mistakes made when writing academic English.

Common mistakes - general	Common mistakes - German-language-based
1) Dangling modifiers	5) Using <i>on the one hand/on the other</i>
2) Using <i>such as/like</i>	6) Using the verb <i>to allow</i>
3) Using <i>beside/besides</i>	7) Using <i>and/as well as</i>
4) Using <i>which/that</i>	8) Using <i>few/only a few</i>
	9) Using <i>In case of/in the case of</i>
	10) Using <i>There exist</i>
	11) Using <i>by/until</i>

Task: Identifying and Correcting Mistakes

Identify which mistake could potentially be present in the sentences below and re-write the sentence to avoid the issue. The first one has been done for you. There is no example for Mistake 2.

	Sentence	Issue
1.	The results are valid for fair weather and under cloudy conditions as well as when it is raining <u>Possible Answer:</u> <i>The results are valid for fair weather, under cloudy conditions and when it is raining.</i>	7
2.	When analyzing the results, two main areas can be identified.	



Worksheet 16

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3.	There exist several answers to this question.	
4.	In case of the Rur valley, water drainage is good.	
5.	Beside these drawbacks, further issues arise.	
6.	The results allow to compare the two methods.	
7.	On the one hand, the results are accurate. On the other, they are statistically relevant.	
8.	Only few researchers have studied this area.	
9.	The participants had to complete the questionnaire until 14 th May.	
10.	Many factors are described in publications which discuss the topic.	
11.	<i>Having been completed, the participants were asked to return the questionnaire.</i>	

Possible Answers – your answers might differ slightly

	Possible Answer	Issue
2.	<i>An analysis of the results allows two main areas to be identified.</i>	6
3.	<i>Several answers to this question exist. Or (possibly better), This question can be answered in several different ways</i>	10
4.	<i>In the case of the Rur valley, water drainage is good. Or, For the Rur valley, water drainage is good.</i>	9
5.	<i>Besides these drawbacks, further issues arise.</i>	3
6.	<i>The results allow the two methods to be compared. Or, The results allow a comparison of the two methods.</i>	6
7.	<i>The results are not only accurate but also statistically relevant. Or, The results are both accurate and statistically relevant.</i>	5
8.	<i>Few researchers have studied this area.</i>	8
9.	<i>The participants had to complete the questionnaire by 14th May. Or, The questionnaire could be completed by the participants until 14th May (when it was taken offline).</i>	11
10.	<i>Many factors are described in papers that discuss the topic.</i>	4
11.	<i>The participants were asked to return the completed questionnaire.</i>	1



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